THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • JULY 15, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

D.A. FOR CENTRAL GOVT STAFF RAISED TO 28% FROM JULY 1

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to restore dearness allowance for govt employees and dearness relief for pensioners

HIKE TO BENEFIT 1.14 CR STAFF AND PENSIONERS

In view of the pandemic, the Union government had frozen the three additional instalments of the DA and DR, which were due from January 1, 2020, July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021. The latest hike will benefit around 48.34 lakh Central government employees and 65.26 lakh pensioners, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said

NO ARREARS WILL BE PAID THIS TIME

- There will be no payment of arrears this time, as the rate of DA/DR for the period from January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 shall remain at 17% of basic pay/pension
- The enhanced rate of DA and DR will be paid from July 2021. The impact of the hike in FY22 is pegged at ₹22,934.56 crore

₹34,401 cr

COMBINED ANNUAL BURDEN ON THE EXCHEQUER DUE TO THE HIKE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Hard talk on change in LAC status quo

Jaishankar tells Wang Yi full restoration of peace needed to build ties

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan where they discussed outstanding issues on the troubled Line of Actual Control in Ladakh.

"Concluded a one-hour bilateral meeting with State Councilor and FM Wang Yi of China on the sidelines of Dushanbe SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting. Discussions focused on the outstanding issues along the LAC in the Western Sector. Highlighted that unilateral change of status quo is not acceptable. Full restoration and maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas is essential for development of our ties. Agreed on convening an early meeting of the Senior Military Commanders," Jaishankar said in a series of tweets.

The two leaders had earlier met in September last year on the sidelines of another SCO meet in Moscow where they had agreed on a five-point mechanism to ensure disengagement and de-escalation along the LAC. "The external affairs minister emphasized the need to follow through on the agreement reached then

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar (R) and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi before the meeting | TWITTER

(in Moscow) and complete the disengagement, resolving the remaining issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh at the earliest," a statement from the ministry stated.

Jaishankar pointed out that the successful disengagement in Pangong Lake earlier this year had created conditions for resolving the remaining issues. "It was expected that the Chinese side would work with us towards this objective. He however noted that the situation in remaining areas is still unresolved," it added.

Going forward, the two leaders agreed that in the next meeting of the military commanders, the two sides should discuss all the remaining issues and seek a mutually acceptable solution.

"There was also an understanding that both sides will continue to ensure stability on the ground and neither side will take any unilateral action that could increase tension," the foreign ministry's statement said.

NATIONWIDE	JULY 13	JULY 14
Fresh cases	32,906	38,792
Recoveries	49,007	41,000
Deaths	2,020	624

KARNATAKA	JULY 13	JULY 14
Fresh cases	1,913	1,990
Recoveries	2,489	2,537
Deaths	48	45

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

July 13 **34,10,974 doses**

July 14 **32,10,451 doses**

TOTAL DOSES: 39,10,53,156

Kodagu district sees negative vax wastage

Even as Karnataka has witnessed a wastage of over one lakh Covid vaccine doses so far, Kodagu district has, however, recorded negative vaccine wastage, amidst acute shortage of vaccine supplies to the district. P5

Mandaviya slams states over vax shortage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi, Bengaluru

NEWLY-appointed Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya got into a collision mode with states on Wednesday, slamming them for "creating panic" among people over alleged shortage of vaccines.

The Central Government also raised concerns over the slow pace of vaccination at private hospitals. It reviewed the situation in 15 states, including Karnataka, on Wednesday.

Mandaviya, criticising the states for issuing "useless statements", alleged that they have mismanaged the inoculation drive. "The states had been informed of available supplies in advance, but they failed to plan accordingly," he said, denying that there is a shortage of vaccines.

However, officials from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarkahand and West Bengal confirmed to *The New Indian Express* that they were facing a shortage of vaccines on Wednesday.

Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal have shut many vaccination centres due to lack of vaccines over the last one week. In Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh, there is a decline in average daily vaccinations since the high of June 21-26.

Mandaviya said 11.46 crore doses were available in June and the numbers have increased to 13.5 crore this month. Of these, 1.5 crore doses are meant for private hospitals.

Terming the pace of vaccination at Private Covid Vaccination Cenres (PCVCs) a worry, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the issue should be addressed immediately. "Many have not placed any indent for the earmarked quantum of vaccines," he added.

But Dr Prasanna HM, president, Private Hospitals and Nursing Association, Karnataka, said they have sent an advisory to 6,000 private hospitals in the State to complete the indenting process by Thursday.

Private hospitals in the State can indent up to 15 lakh doses. Prasanna said that frequent changes in vaccine procurement guidelines and no clarity on who to make the payments had led to delays in indenting.

CONTINUED ON: P9

Crack the whip: Centre

Amid concern over increase in the 'R' factor (reproduction rate) of the coronavirus in view of the blatant violation of Covid norms, the Centre asked states to take action against officials responsible for the situation | P9

Supreme Court sends notice to Uttar Pradesh

The SC on Wednesday took suo motu cognisance of UP allowing the annual Kanwar Yatra amid fears of a third wave. A bench of Justice R F Nariman issued notice and slated the hearing for Friday | P9

NOON SHOWERS

Two girls take cover amidst heavy rain which lashed Bengaluru on Wednesday. The city recorded 4.6mm rainfall till 5.30 pm. IMD has issued heavy rainfall alerts for most parts of Karnataka for the next five days | KAGARAJAGADEKAL | P2

SC CRITIQUE

DROP SEC 66-A CASES, ADVISES HOME MINISTRY

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Wednesday ordered states and Union territories to "immediately withdraw" all cases filed under the repealed Section 66-A of the Information Technology Act, nine days after the Supreme Court termed the unabated use of the scrapped section "a shocking state of affairs".

The government's directive will help save the judiciary's time as 745 cases filed under the defunct section are pending before various trial courts in 11 states.

The Ministry of Home Affairs further ordered states and UTs to direct all police stations under their jurisdiction not to register cases under the section, which was scrapped by the SC on March 24, 2015.

"It has been brought to our notice through an application in Hon'ble Supreme Court that FIRs are still being lodged by some police authorities under the struck down provision of Section 66-A of IT, Act, 2000. The Supreme Court has taken a very serious view in the matter," the MHA said in the communication to states and UTs.

In the letter to all the chief secretaries of states, administrators of UTs and police chiefs, the MHA emphasised the need to "sensitise the law enforcement agencies for the compliance of the order issued by the Supreme Court on 24.03.2015".

The home ministry also reminded the states that it had sent directives to the authorities on three previous occasions on January 11, January 14 and April 1 to sensitise the police authorities.

Second PU academic year begins today

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

THE academic year for second year pre-university students is set to begin on July 15 (Thursday). Since a decision on physical classes is yet to be taken, schools have been told to start classes entirely online.

Last year, links of pre-recorded classes were sent to students by teachers on dedicated WhatsApp groups for each subject. This year, however, lecturers will hold classes on MS Team, Google Meet, Zoom or Jio in real time.

A schedule for the day has also been outlined by the department. Classes start at 10 am and end at 11 am for the first session. The second is held from 11 am to noon, the third between 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm and the fourth from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm.

Teachers are expected to hold classes as per schedule and send the attendance list to the principal every day.

As lecturers have been coming to college since July 7, they have been asked to hold online classes from the premises of their schools.

Strengthening police force

15-20% increase in crime rate since lockdown lifted

6 forensic science laboratories to come up across Karnataka

13,000 vacant posts filled in police force over the last one-and-a-half years

Process on to recruit **4,000** police constables

State sees 15-20% rise in crime post lockdown

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

CRIME rates, which had dipped during the Covid-induced lockdown, have seen an increase of 15-20 per cent after the restrictions were lifted last month, said Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai here on Wednesday.

Taking part in the passing-out parade of probationary police sub-inspectors and deputy superintendents of police, Bommai said, "Most of the cases that are being reported now are dacoity, theft and chain snatching. Earlier, a majority of chain-snatching cases were filed from urban areas, but after the lockdown was lifted, these crimes are being witnessed in rural areas too. I have instructed police officials to increase the number of beats at nights and early mornings. I have also told them to deploy more personnel on such patrolling duties."

Commending the police force for fighting the drug menace effectively, he said that in recent times, narcotic drugs worth over ₹50 crore have been seized across the State. "But the challenge is to track the movement of drugs through the dark web. Still, the police have been quite successful," he added.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

Infosys posts 23% rise in net profit

Bengaluru: IT services major Infosys on Wednesday posted nearly 23 per cent rise in net profit for the June quarter at ₹5,195 crore and raised its revenue growth outlook for the full fiscal to 14-16 per cent buoyed by its robust deal pipeline and "strong" Q1 performance. Its revenue from operations grew 17.8 per cent to ₹27,896 crore in the first quarter of FY22 | P17

CM unveils e-bike taxi scheme

Bengaluru: In a bid to ensure affordable first- and last-mile connectivity in Bengaluru and other cities in the state, CM B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday unveiled the Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi scheme-2021. "IT will boost self-employment, promote eco-friendly environment, fuel conservation, strengthen public transport and encourage related industries," he said | P4

BIG PRIZE

State's ₹5 cr promise to Olympic gold medallists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IT was a bonanza for three athletes from Karnataka who are representing India at the Tokyo Olympics, as the State Government provided ₹10 lakh cash to them on Wednesday. They are part of the 120-member Indian contingent taking part in the mega event from July 23 to August 8.

Felicitating ace swimmer Srihari Nataraj and his family members at a ceremony at the CM's home-office "Krishna" in Bengaluru, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said, "We are proud of Srihari Nataraj (Swimming), Fouaad Mirza (Equestrian) and Aditi Ashok (Golf) from Karnataka, who are representing India at the Olympics."

The CM also presented cheques to family members of Fouaad and Aditi. He announced ₹5 crore to winners of gold medal, ₹3 crore for silver medal and ₹2 crore for bronze.

The government is taking several measures to encourage sportspersons and provide best training facilities. International standard training facilities for football, hockey, shooting, swimming and tennis will come up at Devanahalli to train sportspersons for events like Olympics. Also a sports centre at a cost of ₹2 crore will be set up to encourage talented sportspersons from rural areas, he said.

While Aditi Ashok had participated in the 2016 Olympics, Srihari had secured gold at the 2016 South Asian Championship and had done well in a number of international competitions. On the occasion, Yediyurappa also unveiled the Indian team jersey.

We are proud of Srihari Nataraj (Swimming), Fouaad Mirza (Equestrian) and Aditi Ashok (Golf) from Karnataka, who are representing India at the Olympics

BS Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa felicitates Olympics-bound swimmer Srihari Nataraj on Wednesday | EXPRESS

TOURISTS RUSH TO HAMPI, FAIL TO FOLLOW COVID RULES

KIRAN BALAKRISHNAVAR
@ Hosapete

AS tourist centres across the country are bustling with people after the lockdown restrictions were lifted, the scene is no different at Hampi. In the last 15 days, over 20,000 tourists have visited the world heritage site and there have been a number of violations of Covid-appropriate behavior, which could turn Hampi into a super-spreader area.

Visitors are seen going around not wearing masks and without maintaining social distancing. The electric buggies that operate in Hampi too are packed with visitors.

Hampi sees tourists most seasons of the year | EXPRESS

A tourist guide working at Hampi said that only a few security guards have been deployed to check whether tourists are following Covid norms. But most of the tourists do not listen to these guards and continue to break the rules. "The local people are worried about the rush of people here," he added.

Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA) Commissioner Siddarameshawar said strict action will be taken against those not following the guidelines. "We have appointed teams to keep a check on tourists not following guidelines. But as the area is vast, it is difficult to keep a close eye. Ultimately it's the responsibility of tourists who visit Hampi. If Covid19 cases increase, the administration may think of temporarily closing or restricting entry once again," he noted.

CONTINUED ON: P7